

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1827

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR, EB

SUBJECT: IRAN- SOVIET COMMUNIQUE AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN
ASIA

REF: A) STATE 050381

B) MOSCOW 2981

1. WE SHARE OPINION EXPRESSED MOSCOW REF B THAT WHILE IRAN ON
RECORD WITH " INTENTION" TO CONTRIBUTE TO REALIZATION OF IDEA
COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM IN ASIA, IT NOT A BINDING COMMITMENT
AND THAT IT NOT VIEWED AS SUCH BY GOI.

2. SEMI- OFFICIAL KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL MARCH 19
VIEWS AS LIKELY THAT A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA
WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH DURING KOSYGIN' S VISIT. NOTING
TERMINATION OF VIET NAM WAR, EDITORIAL DEEMS IT NOW POSSIBLE
TO ADOPT A MORE " ASIAN" APPROACH TO ASIAN ISSUES. DECLARES
PRE- CONDITION FOR ASIAN SECURITY IS SETTLEMENT OF ALL POTEN-
TIAL OR ACTUAL BORDER CONFLICTS, AND SINCE CHINA CANNOT BE
LEFT OUT OF ASIAN POLITICS, A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN MOSCOW AND
PEKING MUST BE CONSIDERED AS A VITAL NECESSITY FOR ASIAN PEACE
AND SECURITY. EDITORIAL MAINTAINS THAT SAME THING APPLIES
TO INDIA' S BORDER DIFFERENCES WITH CHINA, AND WAR IN CAMBODIA
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MUST BE ENDED. STIPULATES ANOTHER PRE- CONDITION FOR ASIAN SECURITY IS TURNING INDIAN OCEAN INTO A PEACE ZONE IN WHICH NON- LITTORAL STATES WILL NOT BUILD UP A NAVAL PRESENCE. IRAN WOULD HAVE EVERY REASON TO SUPPORT SUCH DEVELOPMENTS BECAUSE A SINO- SOVIET RAPPROCHEMENT, A STABLE SUBCONTINENT AND A TENSION FREE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD SUIT IRAN' S NATIONAL INTERESTS. EDITORIAL CAUTIONS AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT AT WORKING OUT A COLLECTIVE ASIAN SECURITY SYSTEM THAT WOULD LEAVE OUT CERTAIN MAJOR ASIAN COUNTRIES. THIS IS SEEN AS LEADING TO FRESH TENSIONS AND POSSIBLE DIVISION OF THE CONTINENT INTO TWO OR MORE MUTUALLY SUSPICIOUS AND HOSTILE CAMPS.

3. WE BELIEVE ABOVE EDITORIAL PUTS INTO PROPER PERSPECTIVE THE GOI' S STANCE VIS- A- VIS ANY SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE IS ANY MOVEMENT AFOOT ON THE PART OF IRAN TO MOVE ACTIVELY IN SUPPORTING MOSCOW' S DESIRE FOR AN ASIAN SECURITY SYSTEM. THE SHAH HAS EVINced NO CHANGE IN HIS BASIC SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET AMBITIONS IN THE REGION, AND WE CONSIDER THE GOI' S ADHERENCE TO THE WORDING ON ASIAN SECURITY IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A REITERATION OF IRAN' S DESIRE FOR AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK TOWARDS STABILITY IN THE REGION BASED UPON PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND NON- INTER- VENTION.

HELMS

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